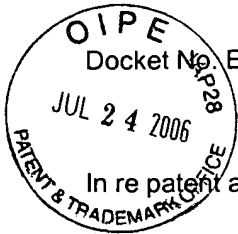


IFW



Docket No. ERICP0344WOUS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:

Applicant: Kerkay  
Serial No.: 10/578,471  
Filed: May 1, 2006  
Title: REINFORCING BAR COUPLING

Art Unit:  
Examiner:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

1. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97 and 1.98, and in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.56, the Office's attention is directed to the patents, pending applications, publications and other information listed on the attached PTO/SB/08A and/or PTO/SB/08B. A copy of each listed document is enclosed, except for (a) those previously cited or submitted to the Office in the following application(s) upon which this application relies for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120, and (b) any U.S. patent or U.S. patent application publication if the present application was filed after June 30, 2003 or entered the national stage under 35 USC § 371 after June 30, 2003:

Serial No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Filing Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Regarding any document, publication or other information for which a date is not given on the attached PTO/SB/08A and/or PTO/SB/08B, Applicant(s) believe(s) the same may qualify as "prior" art to this application and should be treated accordingly, although Applicant(s) reserve(s) the right to contest the prior art status of any document, publication or information, should issue arise.

2. Regarding each listed document that is not in the English language, an English-language translation accompanies this Statement as indicated on the attached PTO/SB/08A and/or PTO/SB/08B or a concise explanation of the relevance of the document is set forth in the following document(s):

(a) \_\_\_\_ A copy of each English language version of a search report (or EPO Search Report) indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office of each document being submitted from the search report, is being submitted herewith or has previously been submitted.

(b) \_\_\_\_ Attached is a "Concise Explanation of Relevance of Non-English Language Documents".

3. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b) this Statement is being filed (one must be checked):

(a) X Within 3 months of the filing date or date of entry into the National Stage.

(b) \_\_\_\_ Before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. If this Statement is not filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, the required certification is given below or, in the absence thereof, the Office is authorized to charge the required fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 18-0988 for consideration of this Statement.

- (c) \_\_\_ Before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits after a first or second submission after final rejection under 37 C.F.R. 1.129(a).
- (d) \_\_\_ After the period set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b) but before the mailing date of either a final action or a notice of allowance.
- (1) \_\_\_ The required certification is given below, or
- (2) \_\_\_ Enclosed is a check covering the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p) for consideration of this Statement, or
- (3) \_\_\_ Charge the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 18-0988
- (e) \_\_\_ After the mailing date of either a final action or a notice of allowance, but before payment of the issue fee. Petition hereby is made for consideration of this Statement and the required certification is indicated below.
- (1) \_\_\_ Enclosed is a check covering the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p), or
- (2) \_\_\_ Charge the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 18-0988.

4. Certification (if applicable)

- (a) \_\_\_ The undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than 3 months prior to the filing of this Statement.
- (b) \_\_\_ The undersigned hereby certifies that no item of information contained in this Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the undersigned's knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this statement was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. 1.56(c) more than 3 months prior to the filing of this Statement.

5. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 18-0988.

Respectfully submitted,

RENNER, OTTO, BOISSELLE & SKLAR, LLP

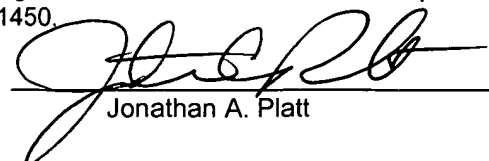
By   
Jonathan A. Platt, Reg. No. 41,255

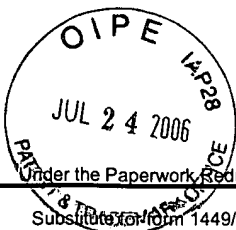
1621 Euclid Avenue, 19th Floor  
Cleveland, Ohio 44115  
(216) 621-1113

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8**

I hereby certify that this paper and the documents enclosed herewith are being deposited on the date indicated below with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: July 19, 2006

  
Jonathan A. Platt



PTO/SB/08A (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for Form 1449/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

**Complete if Known**

Application Number	10/578,471
Filing Date	5/1/06
First Named Inventor	Kerkay
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	ERICP0344WOUS

Sheet 1 of 3

**U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		US- 50,190	09-26-1865	Watson	
		US- 373,789	11-22-1887	Trovillion	
		US- 391,226	10-16-1888	Bowden	
		US- 1,337,642	04-20-1920	Haskell	
		US- 1,377,101	05-03-1921	Sparling	
		US- 2,441,304	05-11-1948	West	
		US- 2,652,273	09-15-1953	Davis	
		US- 3,117,485	01-14-1964	Gerhart	
		US- 3,480,309	11-25-1969	Harris	
		US- 3,551,999	01-05-1971	Gutmann	
		US- 3,614,140	10-19-1971	Nestor	
		US- 3,769,678	11-06-1973	Marsden	
		US- 3,852,850	12-1974	Filhaber	
		US- 3,891,294	06-24-1975	Philibert	
		US- 3,969,920	07-06-1976	Marsden, et al.	
		US- 4,239,246	12-16-1980	Howlett	
		US- 4,241,490	12-30-1980	Edwards	
		US- 4,408,926	10-11-1983	Werner	
		US- 4,469,465	0904-1984	Andrus	

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
		DE 1 659 247	02-11-1971			
		EP 1 225 284	07-24-2002			
		FR 2 558 904*	08-02-1985			
		GB 569,729	06-06-1945			
		GB 974 442	11-04-1964			
		GB 1 432 888	04-22-1976			

\*English Abstract Only

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
-----------------------	--------------------

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND

TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 2

of 3

**Complete if Known**

Application Number	10/578,471
Filing Date	5/1/06
First Named Inventor	Kerkay
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	ERICP0344WOUS

**U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		US- 4,508,409	04-02-1985	Cherry, et al.	
		US- 4,848,971	07-18-1989	Price, Jr.	
		US- 4,850,777	07-25-1989	Lawrence, et al.	
		US- 4,872,626	10-10-1989	Lienart	
		US- 4,941,303	07-17-1990	Jartoux	
		US- 5,022,125	06-11-1991	Blass	
		US- 5,193,932	03-16-1993	Wu	
		US- 5,308,184	05-03-1994	Bernard	
		US- 5,683,273	11-04-1997	Garver, et al.	
		US- 6,089,779	07-18-2000	Lancelot, III	
		US- 6,099,196	08-08-2000	Lancelot, III	
		US- 6,719,478	04-13-2004	Gregel, et al.	
		US- 6,966,104	11-22-2005	Gregel, et al.	
		US- 2004/0086330	05-06-2004	Gregel, et al.	
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
		WO 93/24257	12-09-1993			
		WO 00/66852	11-09-2000			
		WO 2004/022876	03-18-2004			

Examiner  
SignatureDate  
Considered

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

**Complete if Known**

<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (Use as many sheets as necessary)	<b>Application Number</b>		10/578,471		
	<b>Filing Date</b>		5/1/06		
	<b>First Named Inventor</b>		Kerkay		
	<b>Art Unit</b>				
	<b>Examiner Name</b>				
<b>Sheet</b>	3	<b>of</b>	3	<b>Attorney Docket Number</b>	ERICP0344WOUS

**NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>2</sup>
		Blitz Splice The Ultimate Rebar Connection a simple, low-cost and better system for cold splicing all sizes of (4-18") Rebar, PM Blitz Coupler, Blitz Corporation. Brochure, 4 pages.	
		CCL • Alpha Splice, CCL Systems Limited. Brochure, 4 pages.	
		Reinforcement Anchorages and Splices, Fourth Edition 1997. Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute, Prepared under the direction of the CRSI Engineering Practice Committee by th	
		The Ultimate Stress Splicer for Full Positive Connections, Stricon Products Ltd. Brochure, 8 pages including Tension Splice Test Data Summary.	
		Quick Wedge, Erico, Inc. 1992. Brochure, 4 pages.	

<b>Examiner Signature</b>		<b>Date Considered</b>	
-------------------------------	--	----------------------------	--

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO:

Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.